

From: J. Paul Reed
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 5:51am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement - A step in the wrong direction

You probably have a lot of these, so I won't write much: I just want to say I think the proposed settlement is pathetic.

It doesn't protect consumers, it doesn't protect competition in the market, and it allows Microsoft to continue the shady and underhanded business practices that made them the monopoly a United States court claimed they are.

The technology sector moves quickly; the remedy provided by the settlement is already moot; the "browser wars" that started it all are over. Microsoft has cemented their next foray into new markets with .NET and Windows XP.

The only remedy that will even BEGIN to bring competition back to the market is to force Microsoft to open up, COMPLETELY, their source code so competing products may be made compatible with Microsoft-created "standards." Forget trying to break them up (they'll just work together as they always have), and forget trying to have a panel oversee them with sanctions that, if broken, would require the same (useless) sanctions for a longer period of time.

Don't let all your hard work (and our hard-earned tax dollars) to go waste.

Thanks for your consideration.

Later,
Paul

J. Paul Reed preed@sigkill.com || web.sigkill.com/preed
What's the point in being nuts if you can't have a little fun?
-- John Nash, Jr., A Beautiful Mind